

MURDERS AND AUTO THEFTS INCREASE — OTHER LINES OF CRIME DECREASE

Murder and the stealing of autos are the only lines of crime that have not decreased in the past year, according to reports from Chief of Police Healey's office. Figures, which will be part of the annual report of the police department, show 20,047 misdemeanors and felonies up to Thursday morning. In 1915 there were 25,497. There has been a general falling off in robberies, burglaries and larcenies.

On the other hand, killings and auto thefts have been on the upward trend. 288 homicides are recorded for the first 362 days of 1916, against 234 last year. In 1915 77 murders were pulled off. Record for this year is 101. Victims of illegal operations, "auto vampires" and maniacs are about equal in number to those of 1915.

Officials admitted that auto stealing had increased, although figures are not yet brought to date.

POLICEMAN AND CLERKS ARE TAKEN AS GUN THIEVES

Policeman Thomas Gibbons, 6237 University av.; Lloyd White, 5832 Blackstone av., and George M. Eppinger of Forest Park are said to be implicated in a deal whereby revolvers were stolen from a sporting goods store and then sold. All are under arrest.

Officer Gibbons explained that his family had been sick and that he was on the verge of bankruptcy. Hence he was tempted to take part in the deal.

White admitted stealing the weapons with the aid of Eppinger and said the policeman disposed of them. Eppinger denied any connection with the thefts.

Toronto, Ont.—King street barns of Toronto street railway destroyed by fire; loss estimated at nearly million dollars.

RAILROADS BREAK RECORDS AT TRAFFIC AND EARNINGS

Record-breaking traffic and earnings for American railways were recorded in 1916, according to compilations from official sources published by the Railway Age Gazette today in its annual review number.

The increased earnings have been followed immediately, it is set forth, by increased expenditures for equipment and extension. Locomotives and car builders have received large orders for equipment for export as well as for domestic delivery. During the year 170,000 freight cars were ordered by American roads, in addition to 2,349 passenger cars and 2,923 locomotives, the total being greatly in excess of that for the previous year. For export 25,632 freight cars were ordered and 2,983 locomotives, an aggregate increase of approximately 100 per cent.

Construction increase totaled 1,098 miles, an increase over 1915, but below normal.

"The net operating income of the railways during the year just closing," The Gazette said, "has been unprecedented, probably averaging more than 6 per cent on the investment in road and equipment. Until within the last 18 months average gross earnings per mile per month had exceeded \$1,300 in only one month, October, 1912. In three months of the present year, however—May, June and July—more than \$1,300 per mile was earned. In August and September all previous records were broken with earnings of \$1,418 and \$1,409 per mile."

THIRD MURDER IN FAMILY

Eureka, Cal., Dec. 29.—The third murder in the Whiteside family of Humboldt county was uncovered today when Lawrence Whiteside was found dead in a snowdrift on his ranch with a bullet in his brain. Two brothers died in a similar manner. There are said to be big gold deposits on the ranch.